

Four Summers Ago

by

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Cast of Characters

SALENE:

Late 20's

EVANDRA:

Late 20's

Place

Backyard deck

Time

Night

Setting: Backyard deck of Salene and Evandra's parents home.

At Rise: Both women stare into the fireplace.

Both women stare into the outdoor fire.

Salene smokes her cigarette.

Evandra downs the second half of her remaining bottle of beer. She gets up and grabs another one from a nearby cooler.

EVANDRA: I've always resented you for calling me a failure...

SALENE: When did I ever call you---

EVANDRA: Don't act like you don't know or that you don't remember.

SALENE: That isn't fair.

EVANDRA: No, huh?

SALENE: (sarcastic) I was angry at you about something, I'm sure. I can't recall, can you?

EVANDRA: You know, I don't even care that you called me a failure, it was what was behind it that hurt me most. The way it sounded when it came out of your mouth. There was so much heat inside of that word, so much potency, it went right through my veins, I felt it all, it sizzled it's way through me as if I was set on top of an erupting volcano and it stayed with me, all these years, it's kept with me...cause I learned to like it...I enjoy the burn...I've grown accustomed to it, it's become my go to friend whenever I'm down, it taps me on the shoulder and wakes me up from my depression, it whispers in my ear, (whispering) FAILURE. And when I hear that word, it's the sound of your voice---I feel everything all over again and I'm thrown back into my fight to be somebody because I want to prove you wrong. I want you to chew and swallow that word of yours, I want you to wish you never said it to me, I want you to choke on that word until you vomit.

SALENE:...You're intense..

EVANDRA: You're not sorry!

SALENE: I didn't say I was sorry.

EVANDRA: What did you say?

SALENE: I said, I'm going to bed.

EVANDRA: Oh. Yeah! Of course. Go to bed. Run, run little girl, run run.

SALENE: I'm not running, Evandra. I just don't want to deal with your drunken bullshit.

EVANDRA: Who's drunk? I'm not drunk. Where am I drunk?

SALENE: I'm going to---

EVANDRA: No! Stay outside here with me and let's talk calmly. K?

SALENE: I don't want another dumb argument.

EVANDRA: Fine. No dumb arguments...deal. (pause.) Why did you call me a failure?

SALENE: I don't even remember.

EVANDRA: I do. Clear as day, I do.

SALENE: We call each other names all the time.

EVANDRA: This was different. This was extra.

SALENE: Extra?

EVANDRA: This was seasoned. You added some spice on top of what was served.

SALENE: Like I said, I'm sure you---

EVANDRA: Think back and tell me the truth. Please, please, someone in this family needs to speak some Goddamn truth before I melt away and die.

SALENE: Whenever anyone ever tries to tell you something openly and honestly, you can't handle it.

EVANDRA: Because it's always with a vengeance.

SALENE: Whoever said truth was easy?

EVANDRA: Why did you sucker punch me on the phone, four summers ago?

SALENE: Was it four summers ago?

EVANDRA: Salene!

SALENE: ...Damn you, Evandra...you weren't there for me when I needed you most.

EVANDRA: When did you need me most?

SALENE: Around four summers ago. My daughter...you forget? (beat) I'm talking about my miscarriage.

EVANDRA: ...I heard.

SALENE: You heard?

EVANDRA: I heard from mom, who was talking to dad...I wasn't part of the conversation as usual but I didn't say anything.

SALENE: Why didn't you call me?

EVANDRA: Why didn't you tell me?

SALENE: I was ashamed...I thought I failed as a woman, at least that's where I was mentally at the time. Why didn't you call me?

EVANDRA: I felt that if I wasn't told, that it was best to leave you alone and not mix in your situation. I figured you didn't want me to know for a reason and I wanted to respect that.

SALENE: I wish you would have called me.

EVANDRA: I wanted to call you but like I said, I didn't think you wanted me to call you.

SALENE: I did. I very much did...I didn't mean what I said when I called you a failure. I'm not happy with how you've lived your life because you have so much talent and you sit on it and time goes by and I sometimes scratch my head over you and think, "What the hell is she doing?" If I had half your gifts...just half.

EVANDRA: You see? That's the problem with all of you in this family...none of you have chosen a similar path...none of you know what it's like, how hard it is, that the world doesn't always welcome you with open arms just because you think you're talented. Nobody cares about talent. Nobody gives a damn. It's about money and leverage and talent comes last...I used to think it was the other way around...I used to think it was all about hard work and talent but I quickly realized that's only a small part of the equation.

SALENE: Surely something should have transpired in your life by now, something!

EVANDRA: Things do transpire as you put it but it never seems large enough to make any of you pleased. You all expect me to take over the world, you never accept the achievements I have made. I've always been made to feel like a loser and I'm not a loser.

SALENE: You're not a loser. You're lazy.

EVANDRA: You're a piece of shit.

SALENE: But you are, you are...you are lazy and you party.

EVANDRA: No! I live my life. I do things. I travel, I taste life. You, you run from life. You play it safe with your house and your car and your husband. You never leave your bubble world.

SALENE: I travel.

EVANDRA: Where? To the freaking Bahamas? To one of those tropical islands? Wow, there's a stretch. Go to Europe, Asia, Australia, India, go see the world! If I had your money, I'd be everywhere.

SALENE: The reason why I have money is because I work and I'm centralized.

EVANDRA: You bore me to death, I could see the dust floating off your shoulders you're so boring. Bah!

SALENE: Are we done here?

EVANDRA: You couldn't do what I do?

SALENE: I don't want to do what you do.

EVANDRA: That's because you couldn't. You wouldn't last a week, let alone a day in my shoes. There's no failure in survival and there's no success in objects, fancy cars and large houses. It means nothing! The problem with you is that you put a veil over me because I remind you of who you wish you could be. I was the one out of the two of us who had the balls to make an actual attempt at my dreams. Admit the truth. Admit it! You locked up your own dreams because you have no heart...everything that I am you wish you had in you to be and you hate me for it, you resent me for it. That's the truth.

SALENE: ...You're right. You're right....I do wish I had your boldness, courage and whatever it is that you have that makes you do what you do...I'm a chicken. But it's because I know you have it in you to achieve the impossible that I get so angry at you. I want you to reach your full potential because if anyone out of the two of us can do it, it's gonna be you and I'll get my satisfaction through your success. Your success is my success. (beat) I want to go to bed...I'm tired.

EVANDRA: No. No.

Evandra hugs her sister.

END OF PLAY